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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns recent killings at Kibeho camp in Rwanda; welcomes Government's decision to establish independent inquiry and to bring those responsible to justice; expresses concern about generally deteriorating security situation in country.

+ Tajik parties agree to extend cease-fire agreement until 26 May and to convene fourth round of peace talks; Security Council decides to maintain UNMOT presence in Tajikistan pending report of Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General, continuing Australia visit, meets with Minister for Development Cooperation and NGO representatives in Melbourne.

+ In address to Melbourne Conference, Secretary-General says United Nations should be renewed to take advantage of new opportunities for international cooperation.

+ Commission on Sustainable Development adopts 10 decisions on implementation of Agenda 21; begins high-level segment of current session.

+ ESCAP begins fifty-first session in Bangkok with theme of strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development.

+ IAEA says 480 nuclear power plants were operating or being built around world in 1994.

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The Security Council today condemned the killing of numerous civilians at the Kibeho camp for internally displaced persons on 22 April. In a statement read out by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council said it was encouraged by the Rwandese Government's decision to carry out a full investigation and to bring to justice those responsible. It welcomed the Government's decision to establish an independent inquiry with United Nations and other international participation to carry out that investigation. The

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Council asked the Secretary-General to report without delay on the events at Kibeho and on the role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR).

The Council expressed concern about the generally deteriorating security situation in Rwanda. It underlined that the Rwandese Government bore primary responsibility for maintaining security throughout the country and for the safety of internally displaced persons and returnees. The Council noted, however, that the Government had made considerable efforts for national reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation in recent months. It called on the Government to intensify those efforts and on the international community to continue to support them.

The Council expressed grave concern regarding the overcrowding in Rwanda's prisons, which had resulted in the deaths of numerous persons. It asked the Secretary-General to urgently consider measures which could be taken to improve the conditions of those in detention or under investigation. The Council urged States to arrest and detain persons against whom there was sufficient evidence of responsibility for acts within the jurisdiction of the International Tribunal for Rwanda, in accordance with resolution 978 (1995). It asked the Secretary-General to facilitate the rapid establishment of the Tribunal.

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The Security Council has agreed to continue the presence of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) in that country. It did so at the request of the Secretary-General, pending a report on the outcome of talks between the Tajik parties which concluded in Moscow yesterday. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 26 April, the Council expressed concern at the continuing military activities on the Tajik-Afghan border. It noted that an effective cease-fire remained a necessary condition for the deployment of UNMOT.

A United Nations spokesman today announced that the Tajik Government and opposition had agreed in Moscow to extend the current cease-fire agreement for one month to 26 May. They had also agreed to hold the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks in Kazakhstan on 22 May. Meanwhile, the President of Tajikistan and the leader of the opposition would endeavour to have a meeting within two weeks. The Moscow talks were convened by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Tajikistan.

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Continuing his visit to Australia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this morning in Sydney with representatives of the Australian Red Cross and participated in a forum entitled "Dignity for Women in War". He said humanitarian assistance for victims of armed conflict was a United Nations priority.

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The Secretary-General then departed for Melbourne, where he reiterated his gratitude to the Government and people of Australia for their support of the United Nations since 1945. He attended a State luncheon hosted by the Governor of Victoria, Richard McGarvie, and later met with the Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs, Gordon Bilney. He then met with representatives of various NGOs, at a meeting arranged by the Australian Council for Overseas Aid.

Later, at a special ceremony at Melbourne University, the Secretary-General was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Laws in recognition of his contribution to international peace. He then delivered the keynote address at a Conference entitled "Great Expectations: The United Nations at Fifty".

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In his address to the Conference at Melbourne University, the Secretary-General said the United Nations should be renewed in order to take advantage of the new opportunities for international cooperation. The world was no longer divided into two opposed camps, and technology had made cooperation possible to an unprecedented degree. However, the end of the cold war had also led to an era of physical, social and political imbalance.

Today, the world faced urgent problems of scarce resources, environmental degradation and natural disasters, the Secretary-General noted. Mass migrations, disease and economic instability defied the ability of individual States to control them. Many people had sought security in narrow ethnic identities, resulting in a terrible rise of conflict within States, rather than between States.

In that context, he continued, the international community must preserve the achievements of the past, while preparing for the challenges and changes of a new era. New forms of cooperation must be explored, so that individuals could find a sense of belonging without turning to ethnic exclusivity. New ways to safeguard the protection of minorities must be developed, and new models of confederation discovered. The United Nations was ready to meet those challenges, he said, citing the Organization's achievements in diplomacy and peace-keeping, and its contributions to development and democratization.

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The Commission on Sustainable Development yesterday began the high-level segment of its current session, hearing addresses by 11 Ministers. Opening the meeting, Chairman HenriqueÑBrandao Cavalcanti (Brazil) stressed the interdisciplinary character of the Commission's work. He said one of its central objectives was to integrate the issues cutting across economic, social, environmental and institutional categories, and bring them together as fundamental tools of a sustainable strategy.

Nitin Desai, Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, said the role of the high-level segment was central

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to the work of the Commission. The political presence represented by the segment fostered coordination and offered the possibility of real action on implementation of sustainable development programmes.

Earlier yesterday, the Commission adopted 10 decisions on implementation of Agenda 21 -- the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) -- and referred seven back to its drafting groups for further consultation. The decisions adopted related to, among other issues, integrating environment and development in decision-making, financial resources and mechanisms, combating poverty, and changing consumption and production patterns.

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The fifty-first session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has begun in Bangkok, Thailand. Among the subjects to be considered at the session are the environment, poverty alleviation, transport and communications, statistics and the special needs of the region's least developed, land-locked and island developing countries. This year's theme is strengthening regional cooperation in human resources development, with special reference to the social implications of sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific.

In a message to the ESCAP session, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed the need for nations in the region to move ahead together through cooperation. He said cooperation was more essential than ever to confront such global threats as environmental degradation, international crime and natural disasters. The Secretary-General's message was read out by ESCAP Executive Secretary Adrianus Mooy.

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A total of 480 nuclear power plants were operating or being built around the world in 1994, based on data reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Power Reactor Information System. During the year, four nuclear power plants were connected to electricity grids in China, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Mexico, bringing the number of operating reactors to 432 in 29 countries. Meanwhile, 48 reactors were being constructed in 15 countries.

Nuclear power's share of electricity production remained high in seven countries -- Lithuania, 76.4 per cent; France, 75.3 per cent; Belgium, 55.8 per cent; Sweden, 51.1 per cent; Slovak Republic, 49.1 per cent; Bulgaria, 45.6 per cent and Hungary, 43.7 per cent. Eighteen countries relied on nuclear power plants for at least a quarter of their total electricity needs.

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